

16. (Amended) A lip-openable lid for use in connection with a cap for a container, the cap having a skirt and an inwardly extending ledge that forms a valve seat and defines an opening, the lid comprising:

a gasket having

an upstanding lip-engageable wall, said wall having a diameter and height that allows it to fit upward through the opening and beyond the ledge,

a central panel radially inward of said wall, said central panel made of a flexible elastomer; and

a flange extending outward from said wall and being engageable with said valve seat, said flange including rigidifying material having an annular ring;

a rigid support that supports said central panel of said gasket, said support having

a base,

a central section connected to said base, and

liquid flow openings extending through said support, said base being sustainable by a surface of the cap or the container and, when so sustained, said support being capable of positioning said upper surface of said flange of said gasket against said valve seat of said cap; and

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concl. means for securing said central panel of said gasket to said central section of said support, wherein said flexible elastomer flexes and stretches to allow a portion of said flange to be displaced from said valve seat when lip pressure is applied against an adjacent portion of said wall of said gasket.

a2 513. (Amended) The lid of claim 1, wherein said rigidifying material comprises a flexible elastomer having a durometer from about 70 to about 90.

a3 615. (Amended) The lid of claim 1, wherein said flange includes an upstanding peripheral annular sealing bead for improved sealing of said flange to said valve seat.

1421. (Amended) A lip-openable container, comprising:

a container body for containing liquids and having an open top end;

a4 a removable cap hermetically sealed to said container body about its said open top end, said cap having a depending skirt with a ledge that extends radially inward from said skirt forming a valve seat and defining a central opening; and

a removable lip-openable lid for sealing said central opening of said cap, said lid comprising

a gasket having

an upstanding, lip-engageable wall, said

Serial No.: 09/634,773
Art Unit 3727

wall being disposed within said central opening and extending upward beyond said ledge;

a flexible central panel radially inward of and communicating with said wall, said central panel being made of a flexible elastomer and having an integral flexible member that depends from said central panel; and

a peripheral flange extending outward from said wall and having an upper surface, said flange including rigidifying material having an annular ring; and

a rigid support that supports said central panel of said gasket and maintains said flange in normal sealing engagement with said valve seat, said rigid support comprising

a base;

a central section; and

liquid flow openings extending through said support, said base being maintained in position by being in contact with a surface of said container or said cap, said central panel of said gasket and said central section of said support each having securing means that are engaged with each other and flexibly secure said gasket to said support,

said central panel of said gasket being capable of flexing and stretching downwardly in an area radially inward of said wall of said gasket to allow a portion of said upper surface of said flange to be displaced from said valve seat when lip pressure is applied against an adjacent portion of said wall of

Serial No.: 09/634,773
Art Unit 3727

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concl said gasket.

14

a5 2140. (Amended) The lid of claim ~~21~~¹⁴, wherein said rigidifying material comprises a flexible elastomer having a durometer from about 70 to about 90.

22 42. (Amended) The lid of claim ~~21~~¹⁴, wherein said annular ring is made of a flexible elastomer having a durometer about 80.

a6 23 43. (Amended) The lid of claim ~~21~~¹⁴, wherein said flange includes an upstanding peripheral annular sealing bead for improved sealing of said flange to the valve seat.

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending in this application. The Office Action states that claims 1-7, 9, 16-32 and 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 based on double patenting, as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-30 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,202,877 (hereinafter referred to as the '877 patent). The Office Action further states that claims 8, 10-15, 33 and 37-43 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of the '877 patent, but acknowledges that the